



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION held Wednesday, November 20, 2002, for the purpose of meeting with representatives from College Park and Bowie to discuss municipal planning and zoning authority.**

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Kristen Ward, City Planner; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: David Deutsch, City Manager, Bowie; Karen Hampton and Peter King, City Council, Joe Nagro, Assistant City Manager, and Terry Schum, Planning Director, College Park; Maniko Barthelemy, the Gazette. Delegate-Elect Justin Ross arrived at about 8:20 p.m.

Following introductions, Mayor Davis announced that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the three cities' response to the November 14 letter from Adrian Gardner, General Counsel for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), which accuses the cities of wishing to secede from the regional planning structure established by state law. She said she had talked with College Park Mayor Stephen Brayman, who said Mr. Gardner was now speaking actively against this effort of the cities and that he thought a very strong but positive letter of response to Mr. Gardner should be written promptly and copied to the other municipalities in the county in order to convey the complete information.

Mayor Davis asked how College Park's conversation with its delegation had gone on this topic. Ms. Schum said they were sponsoring the legislation and had introduced it. In response to Mayor Davis's question about Senator-Elect Gianetti's support, Mr. King said that although he had originally proposed making this a "College Park only" issue because he thought it would be more saleable if tied to the university, he would be willing to support the group effort if the City of College Park wished to go that way.

Mayor Davis asked if Bowie had raised the issue yet with the 23rd delegation, and Mr. Deutsch said they had not but expected them to be supportive.

Following discussion of various elected officials and individuals who changed their positions with their audiences on this topic, Mr. Putens proposed having a joint meeting of the City Councils, Mayors, and state delegations of the three cities as a way of giving publicity and credence to the issue.

Delegate-Elect Ross arrived at this point. He said although his "going in" position was not to support the effort to achieve municipal planning and zoning authority, he was willing to learn and had come to the meeting to hear more.

Mayor Davis suggested trying to hold the joint meeting on legislative strategy in January in order to get it in before the Assembly session.

There was discussion of the status of bi-county support, County Council and County Executive-Elect support and Maryland Municipal League support, as well as the need for outreach with the smaller municipalities. Mayor Davis asked if the three mayors should attempt to meet with County Executive-Elect Johnson. Mr. Deutsch said the Bowie Council was having dinner with Mr. Johnson and others on December 9 and that meeting with the Mayors might be the next step. He said Mr. Johnson had expressed support for the issue during the campaign. Mr. King suggested that dealing with the County Council should wait until after discussions with Mr. Johnson.

Although various approaches to the letter were discussed, it was agreed to follow a line of attack suggested by Mr. King. He proposed not accepting Mr. Gardner's framework but rather stating in positive terms that this is a legitimate aspiration of the municipalities in Prince George's County and a natural outcome of the maturing of government in the county. He said the point should be made that this aspiration is not simply a result of the shortcomings of the county, though the cities would be happy to provide their lists of complaints; rather, the complaints served to accelerate the process. Mr. King agreed to provide a draft of the letter by early the following week. It was agreed that it should be sent no later than December 14, earlier if possible.

The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Gallagher  
City Clerk